WRL News

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Demonstrations Inaugurate Mobilization

by David McReynolds

From Stockholm to Hiroshima, from Washington D.C. to San Francisco, the formal "launching" of the Mobilization for Survival was marked with press conferences, mass demonstrations, vigils, the release of balloons near nuclear plants to dramatize wind-blown radiation. Taken as a whole, more than 140 actions took place in the United States alone between August 6 and 9, the most massive observance of the nuclear bombings in more than 25 years.

An International Statement was issued at the press conferences, signed by more than 150 world leaders, including five Nobel Prize winners, various members of Parliaments, heads of local governments including the Governor of Tokyo and the Lord Mayor of Athens, and the noted Indian leader, Jayaprakash Narayan.

The press conference in Hiroshima saw the American movement represented by Ed Hedemann of WRL staff, Natalie Shiras, of our National Committee, Dr. George Wald, Nobel Prize winner, and Kay Camp, of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Also speaking at the press conference was Peggy Duff, General Secretary of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace.

Next Stage: Teach-ins

The launching of the Mobilization for Survival was a clear success. It brought to the attention of

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photo by Steve Sumerford

A sit-down demonstration in Hiroshima's Peace Park on August 6, protesting the August 4 American nuclear test. In the front row is Judy Hurley, one of the WRL delegates, sitting next to Professor Moritaki, a survivor of the Hiroshima bomb and a leader of Gensuikin. Sitting in the back are Natalie Shiras and Ed Hedemann, two other WRL delegates. The people behind the demonstration are paying their respects to those who died from the 1945 bomb, whose names are recorded inside the Cenotaph [the arch-like structure]. In the background is the Peace Dome, another "survivor" and a reminder to future generations.

THE PEACE WALK IN JAPAN

by Jim Peck

Last year I was on the southern route of the Continental Walk in the U.S. This year I was on the southern route of the Peace Walk in Japan—from Nagasaki to Hiroshima. This was considered the most significant of the 13 feeder walks because of the joint symbolism of the two bombed cities. Upon arrival in Tokyo July 2, I was asked by Gyotsu Sato to select one person from the 27 Americans on our charter flight to accompany me on the southern route. I chose my friend, Millen Brand, because I thought the Walk would gain publicity from the presence of a well-known American writer.

So, within 2 hours after our plane landed in Tokyo, Millen and I were aboard a southbound train for Nagasaki, an 18-hour trip. The train arrived 1 ½ hours late. The persons who met us, instead of taking us to lunch as planned, rushed us to the Peace Park where

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TRANSNATIONAL NONVIOLENCE

by Joanne Sheehan

The movement would have no deep vitality if it took the same form in Brazil as in France, in the Indies as in The United States, in the Cameroons as in Australia. Each race, each language, each religion must leave its own mark on the movement.

Dom Helder Camara
Brazilian Bishop

This past July, seventy-six justice and peace activists from 30 countries had a rare chance to experience that diverse vitality, better understand our common concerns and create international networks to enhance our working together.

We came together for the International Seminar on Training for Nonviolent Action (ISTNA) held outside of Cuernavaca, Mexico, July 6-27. The purpose of ISTNA was broadly stated as "a new initiative of the international movement meant to strengthen the worldwide network of nonviolent action groups and to make further advances in the field of training." Of special significance was that the seminar was held in a Third World country with many participants coming from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Third World countries in Asia.

Each of us came with our own expectations and goals which filled several sheets of newsprint covering an entire wall in the plenary room. Although we had difficulty deciding whether the basic emphasis of the seminar should be training and/or organizing, a schedule was worked out by a rotating coordinating committee (made up of regional representatives), evaluated and changed as we went along. We began with discussion groups on issues ranging from peacekeeping, community conflict, group dynamics and evaluation to alternative education, economics and the spiritual aspects of nonviolence.

We then moved on to more specific skills sharing in the use of strategy tools. During our third and final week we used our training techniques to formulate plans around our main concern—nuclear power, human rights, community conflict or liberation movements.

Time was also made for special presentations on the situations in Northern Ireland, South Africa and several countries in South America. A women's group met and organized a plenary session where women from several countries spoke on the women's struggle and how that related to the broader struggle for liberation. Several participants brought slide shows and films to share with us about the work in their countries.

A major thrust of ISTNA was not simply the three weeks together, but what follow-up would result. Many of the working groups formulated specific plans and have already begun to set those plans in motion.

Human rights was a major concern of all participants. The human rights workshop developed plans for a communication network which is being organized to facilitate the exchange of information. The contact persons will also mobilize pressure in cases of emergency. In some instances participants made a commitment to establish a center on human rights, while others will strengthen existing networks. Special emphasis is being placed on assemblies on human rights to take place in 1978, the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, organized under the auspices of Campaign Human Rights 78. For further information, contact: Jacqui Chagnon, 1114 'G' Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Anti nuclear power activists from nine countries met often, sharing strategy and planning for future communications and action. There are plans for a transnational

Drawing from NACLA/LNS

newsletter to be published for those working against nuclear power and in favor of the sensible use of energy. A questionnaire will be sent to anti-nuclear groups asking for responses to the possibilities of cooperative actions, simultaneous actions, boycotts, and cooperative actions for a regional struggle. There is also the possibility that a transnational strategy planning meeting will be organized to attempt to bring about worldwide anti-nuclear coordination. Contact: Joanne Sheehan, CNVA, RFD #1 Box 430, Voluntown, CT. 06384.

Participants in the *alternative economics* workshop will distribute a statement on communitarian economic systems for discussion among various national and transnational nonviolent movements and networks. They will also develop a study-guide on communitarian-based efforts in various countries. Contact: Carl Zietlow, 423 W. Nittany, State College, PA. 16801.

An international committee of correspondence will be initiated to collect and publish *case studies* for training and organizing. Initial topics will be: toppling govern-

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Peace Walk in Japan . . . continued from page 1

the Walk was to start in less than an hour.

When we got out of the car, I viewed the tall peace statue and, surrounding it, some 150 walkers. Many carried huge, brightly-colored, hand-lettered banners. The media was there in force and, as soon as I was spotted, I was called upon for a brief speech.

My brainstorm of the project was to have come prepared with a phonetic translation into Japanese of a message of solidarity from the American peace movement in general and from the 1976 Continental Walkers in particular. So, I read it at the Nagasaki Peace Park fo the first of many, many times. My Japanese accent may have sounded awful, but the speech came across as comprehensible and invariably drew enthusiasm. People really appreciate one's attempting to communicate with them in their own language. Shortly after I finished speaking, the Walk took off down one of Nagasaki's broadest avenues.

Next day, Millen and I were detained in Nagasaki for an interview with the mayor and visits to several unions. These interviews became standard procedure in the towns and cities through which we walked. Millen and I, along with several Walk leaders would be seated around a low table in overstuffed, upholstered chairs. Tea would be served. The mayor, looking like a politician—just as American mayors do—would enter, sit down and exchange a few words. I would ready my speech. Millen would read his, which had been put into phonetic Japanese by one of the translators. The others would make brief remarks. Then, the mayor would be asked to sign the Hiroshima Appeal to the UN for abolition of nuclear weapons. He would look it over very carefully and then sign. Finally, he would present an envelope containing a contribution to the Walk (usually $40). Each day, the Walk would set out from a city hall in one town and wind up at a city hall in another.

Discussing these mayoral confrontations with a Walk leader who spoke some English, I asked how-come so many mayors are sympathetic. He explained that many of them are not, but that they don't dare to refuse to sign the Appeal because peace is such a popular issue in Japan. The only mayors on the southern route who refused to sign were the mayor of Sasebo, site of Japanese and U.S. naval bases (he had enacted legislation permitting nuclear submarines to enter the port), and the mayor of Kitaktushu, target for the second U.S. A-bomb (weather conditions Aug. 9, 1945 forced a last-minute shift to Nagasaki).

After meeting Nagasaki's mayor, Millen and I were taken to visit several union halls where we had brief discussions. First we talked with the head of the teachers union, who is married to an A-bomb victim. The couple had to wait two years before they felt it safe to have children. This teacher, like many unionists with whom I spoke, asked me about the position of the American unions on peace. I had to tell them that American unions simply do not participate in the peace movement. I told this teacher about the head of the American teachers union and how he actually barred his members from speaking out against the Vietnam war, forcing them to form a separate anti-war teachers committee. I also told him how the head of the American labor movement is to the right of the government on the peace issue, favoring a cold war policy and opposing detente. He appeared surprised. In Japan unions support and participate in the peace walk. A sizeable number of union members, particularly teachers, walked with us. Two teachers I met were admirers of Martin Luther King, Jr. and read to their classes his "I have a dream" speech. Many times we stopped at union halls for lunch or refreshments. When we arrived at the vast campus of Kiushu University at Fukuoka, we saw a big sign saying "The Teachers Union Welcomes the Peace Walkers."

Another questions put to me was: is there any education for peace in the American school system. I had to reply that there is none. In Japan, students are taken in groups to visit the peace museums in both Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

On occasion, Walk leaders who speak some English asked for my impressions of the Japanese Walk. What struck me most was the continuous participation of *mainstream* people, not only in cities but in smaller towns. They would take a day off from their work or daily tasks to participate. Each group, ranging from 6 to 150, would walk for a day. Unlike the Continental Walk, the Japanese southern route had no long

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WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the **War Resisters League**.

signature . . . . . .

address . . . . . .

city . . . . . .
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Send to War Resisters League
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distance walkers. However, on the main route, Tokyo-Osaka-Hiroshima, there were some 30 Japanese long distance walkers, including a few Buddhist monks. I am the only person who walked all the way from Nagasaki to Hiroshim—360 miles in 30 days. Millen's feet became hopelessly blistered after 12 days and he had to ride in the accompanying station wagons for the rest of the Walk.

When I say the Japanese walkers are mainstream, I mean they are not counterparts of WRLers, FORers, AFSCers, etc. Nor are they bearded or long-haired. Passerbys couldn't accuse them of looking like "freaks" because they looked no different than the passerby.

Everywhere Millen and I were asked our age and they marveled at our being long distance walkers. I'm 62 and Millen is 71. On one lap, a 71-year-old man, through a translator, became especially friendly with Millen when he heard Millen is the same age. The fact that I've been jailed 45 times in my life also drew considerable interest.

The Japanese walkers ranged in age from 5 to 76, including men, women and children. Some were A-bomb victims. One walker was a blind man who speaks perfect English. He learned it because his hobby is literature and there is insufficient material in Japanese braille. Another walker walks with crutches. Another was a man in a wheelchair. Millen asked him why he participated. He replied "because of the A-bombs 32 years ago and because of the neutron bomb today." While we were on the Walk, Carter declined to eliminate the neutron bomb from the arms budget we inherited from Ford. This shocked a number of the walkers. Millen and I hadn't seen any newspapers and wouldn't have known about it, had the Japanese not told us.

Perhaps the most significant action we took as Americans on the Walk was July 29 when we picketed an American military

Jim Peck and Millen Brand in Nagasaki's Peace Park, July 3, all set for the first lap of the 360-mile walk to Hiroshima

base at Iwakuni, about 25 miles south of Hiroshima. A couple of days before, the southern route had been joined by the Mottori route, bringing the total of Americans in the group to 7. My idea to picket the base got unanimous support. We got our Japanese group leader to get large strips of paper and a magic marker so that we could paing signs in English. One of them said: "U.S. Military Go Home!" The general reaction of the GIs confronting us behind a wire fence was "We *want* to go home!" But after a few minutes MPs herded them into the barracks. We wound up by singing "We Shall Overcome." Our demo was well covered by local reporters.

In passing through Sasebo July 7, we stopped for a brief vigil at the U.S. naval base and I made a speech in English. Next day, a local Walk leader showed me a photo and story in the Nagasaki News. The day after we took off from Nagasaki, we were shown our pictures in 5 newspapers. The Walk got considerable coverage in the Japanese press, as did the Continental Walk the previous year.

At a rest stop the 3rd day, the leader asked me to teach him one of the songs sung on the Continental Walk. I taught him "We Shall Overcome." Then, he taught me the Japanese song "Genbakuo Furusumaji" ("No More A-Bombs") and we sang it together. I sang it so many times since, that I now know it by heart.

A report of the Walk would be incomplete without mentioning the underlying politics. For the first time in 14 years there is the start of unity between Japan's two anti-A-bomb organizations, Gensuikyo and Gensuikin. Gensuikyo is the group dominated by the Community Party, which in Japan follows an independent line rather than subservience to Moscow. Gensuikin represents the Socialist Party and other non-Communists. On the main route there was some political controversy, but the American walkers, most of whom were on the main route, made a point of staying aloof.

On August 1 about 6:30 p.m., the southern and Tottori routes, coming east along Hiroshima's Peace Boulevard, met the other routes, coming west. They merged joyously, 250 strong, and walked into the Peace Park for a final rally.

Four days later, on the eve of Hiroshima Day, the peace walkers

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THE JAPANESE PEACE MOVEMENT

by Ed Hedemann

The peace movement in Japan is dominated by two organizational giants and is weakened by their constant feuding. Their disagreement reflect some basic problems in the peace movement world wide, which surfaced in two major international conferences held in Japan this summer.

The Split

The two organizations are the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (abbreviated as Gensuikyo by the Japanese) and the Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikin). Both are coalitions of peace groups, labor unions (labor is very progressive in Japan), youth groups, women's groups, and political parties. Their outreach, through the affiliated organizations, is in the millions. In a simple-minded way, they are often typed by the political parties which they contain—Gensuikin has Socialist Party members and Gensuikyo has Communist Party (independent of Moscow) members.

The anti-nuclear bomb movement in Japan is the strongest of its kind in the world. In 1954 when it became a mass movement (after the hydrogen bomb test at Bikini), it was even stronger as a unified movement. Nine years later it split over whether to support the Partial Test Ban Treaty (which banned atmospheric tests) or to oppose it as a sham (because it OKed underground tests). There were other factors which caused that split, among them were power plays between the Socialists and the Communists to take control of this very influential movement.

Today, the partial test ban treaty is no longer an issue, but nuclear power is. Gensuikin opposed nuclear power plants and Gensuikyo does not, yet, have a position on nuclear power. Both sides basically favor unification, but Gensuikyo wants to stick to the one tning they agree on—opposition to nuclear weapons (plus aid to victims of the A-bombs). Gensuikin insists that opposition to nuclear weapons must include opposition to power plants.

The Peace Walk

Each year since 1957 there has been a peace walk from Tokyo to Hiroshima (about 800 miles). This walk is basically a joint effort by Nihonzan Myohoji (a Buddhist sect that believes social activism and chanting Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo will bring world peace) which had sent monks to the U.S. to

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The Japanese Experience

by Steve Sumerford

Participating in the Japanese disarmament walk and conferences was an exciting personal and political experience for me. I returned to the United States with the knowledge that there are people all over the world working for disarmament and that sense of solidarity is very inspiring.

I discovered that the general population of Japan strongly supports world nuclear disarmament. In fact, in 1955, over one-third of the population signed a petition calling for nuclear disarmament. As we walked, it was not uncommon for people to come out of homes or shops and applaud, take pictures, offer us water and sometimes even ice cream. Most city mayors signed the disarmament petition and gave financial support. It was encouraging to see such enthusiasm and warmth.

One important historical lesson I learned while in Japan is that we often forget that the U.S. bombed Japan three times. While I knew that the U.S. tested the H-bomb on the Bikini Island in 1954, I had never realized the significance of that act to the Japanese. Twenty-three fishermen were exposed to radioactive fall-out during that testing. One of them died seven months later; the others became sterile and suffered from liver ailments. It is only recently that the island has been determined safe enough to be re-occupied. While in terms of the human lives that were destroyed, this bombing is certainly not as horrifying as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it clearly reflects the same racist and imperialist attitudes that "justified" the nuclear attacks on Japan in 1945.

The most frequent question asked of us concerning the U.S. was, "How do the American people feel about the neutron bomb? Is there organized opposition to it?" Their questions conveyed to me a sense of urgency, which I think we must incorporate in our disarmament struggle in this country.

Another meaningful experience for me was participating in a sit-in at the Peace Park in Hiroshima. The purpose of the sit-in was to protest the U.S. testing of a nuclear weapons in Nevada on August 4. The hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) organize such a sit-in after every test of nuclear weapons. There had been a test only a few days earlier in the Soviet Union.

As I reflect on my trip, there are many experiences I would like to share, but one of the most moving experiences for me was an incident that occured at a rally in the city of Sendai. At the end of the rally a University student was asked to lead everyone in a song. To our surprise, he began to sing in English, "We Shall Overcome," and everyone joined in. As we sang the last verse, "We shall live in peace," I knew that if we all continue to struggle together, we will prevent the doomsday.

Steve Sumerford is on the WRL Southeast staff.

WRL National Conference

by Helen Michalowski

People making contacts and leaving energized are marks of a successful conference. Accomplishing clarification of direction and program in a relatively short period of time with good process mark a successful committee meeting. On all these criteria, WRL's 1977 National Conference and National Committee Meeting have to be judged a wonderful success.

Titled "Disarming the World—Disarming Ourselves," the 1977 WRL National Conference took place in Lacey, Washington, August 11-14. Some 200 people attended. Many politically interested people from the surrounding area were there, particularly people involved with the anti-nuclear power campaigns. For many, the conference was the first introduction to WRL. Although all age groups were represented, the average age was younger and there were more children than usual. The site was a small lake, surrounded by pine trees and plenty of blue sky.

Inuka Mwanguzi and Scott Ullman going for desert. Photo by David McReynolds.

In keeping with its "feminist perspective," the collective which organized this year's conference made a determined effort to balance the political and personal. Several innovations were introduced, including an interest survey during the planning stages so that workshops could correspond to people's felt need, and an evaluation time at the end of the conference.

The conference itself was organized without keynote speakers and almost no plenary sessions. Instead, small groups were emphasized. Most meetings took the form of workshops with resource people as facilitators.

"Affinity groups" were also formed whereby people associated on the basis of being "ice cream junkies," "singers," "lesbians," etc. The affinity groups gave people the chance to meet outside areas of well defined political work. In the affinity groups people could talk about points of conflict between their personal and political lives, could offer each other support in working through these conflicts, and could share information and reflections on workshops various people had attended.

The scheduling of activities was experimental too. During the course of a 12 hour day, there would be occasional 1½ - 2 hour breaks in addition to the meal times. During this free time people swam, played, talked, or held their own ad hoc meetings. Thus, the energy level remained high throughout the day and into the evening sessions.

The scheduled workshops again reflected the mix of the personal with the political. In addition to disarmament, peace conversion, Third World liberation struggles, socialism, women and multinationals, and workplace organizing, workshop topics also included criticism/self-criticism, lesbian-anarchism, family, and living in community. The complement of political and personal was further reinforced as conference participants shared child care, meal preparation and clean-up.

Once or twice during the conference, dissension seemed to show through a thin place in the otherwise very solid sense of shared commitment and good spirit. The most controversy took place the last night of the conference when participants met as a whole group to see some skits about race and class bias. The facilitators suggested that we break down into groups based on our class origin and race. The purpose was to discuss how our upbringing had interferred with our being able to relate to and work with people of different origins. However, this quickly developed into a heated discussion with some black WRL members being among those most adamantly opposed. The healthy argument was joined from all sides and pointed out that WRL needed some way to address problems of race and class bias. The National Committee was given the charge to pay attention to this whole area of concern.

The National Committee (NC) met from Sunday afternoon until Tuesday noon. The generally

The National Committee after completing its work. Photo by David McReynolds.

relaxed and congenial atmosphere of the National Conference took over. The meeting process was excellent: no one dominated the discussion, everyone's position was treated with respect; decisions were basically made by consensus.

The National Committee brainstormed ideas for program; then smaller working groups rewrote the different program areas into specific proposals. The next day, the NC discussed each proposal and set priorities. Most briefly, disarmament is the first priority and WRL will continue to work with the Mobilization for Survival. The second priority is the work of three task forces which were established. Feminism & Nonviolence, Third World Liberation, Class Struggle, and third priority Nuclear Power. The NC adopted the position that while disarmament is first priority, this work should be done with a heavy "peace conversion" emphasis. This means that the approach should be "We need human services and to do this we have to cut the military budget."

In addition to defining WRL program, the NC accomplished extensive modifications in WRL's internal structure. Highlights of the modifications include: 1) The primary task of the National Office is to support the development of locals and regionals. 2) The number of members on the Executive Committee has been reduced so that the New York area does not carry so much weight in the National Committee; 3) The National Committee will meet twice a year instead of once; 4) Next year there will be no National Conference, instead regional conferences will be encouraged. All of the structural changes are designed to give more strength to the locals and regionals vis-a-vis the national office and the executive committee.

Conference organizer Betty Johanna. Photo by David McReynolds.

Everyone was very pleased with the outcomes of the national Committee meeting. A lot of very good work got done; important steps were taken to bring forth a higher consciousness about feminism, race, and class; communication between the East and West Coasts was much improved. The entire combined event, conference and committee meeting portends well for the future of WRL.

Helen Michalowski is on the WRL/West regional office staff.

Japanese Peace Movement. . . continued from page 5

participate in the Continental Walk last year, and Gensuikyo, to which Nihonzan Myohoji belongs. Basically, the monks provide long distance walkers, hospitality, and some organizers, and Gensuikyo provides organizers, material, hospitality, and short distance walkers.

This year was a big production—14 routes covering every prefecture (similar to U.S. states). Forty Americans joined it, including 5 WRL representatives at the invitaion of Ven. Gyotsu Sato and the Nihonzan Myohoji—the first time any foreigners have ever participated. The American participation was a reciprocal gesture to the Japanese participation in the Continental Walk, as well as an attempt to strengthen the international peace movement.

On the main route of the walk (Tokyo to Hiroshima), clashes occurred when some non-Gensuikyo Japanese tried to enter the march carrying "unauthorized" signs opposing nuclear power.

The International Conference

The first conference was the Symposium on the After Effects of the Atomic Bombings—a three-staged affair. The first stage involved scientific experts going over data on medical, physical, psychological, sociological, genetic, and environmental effects of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The second stage, held in Hiroshima, to which Natalie Shiras and I went from the WRL delegation, was organized to discuss how to disseminate the findings of the first stage and develop opposition to nuclear weapons.

The second stage was attended by about 80 foreign delegates from about 24 countries, including a Soviet delegation and three Nobel Prize winners. It was funded in part by UNESCO and organized in Japan by Gensuikyo.

The delegates at the Symposium raised four controversial issues; the first two resulted in very heated discussions which carried into the World Conference:

1) nuclear power
2) partial measures (e.g., arms control) versus general and complete disarmament
3) the danger of conventional weapons, which some felt was bridging the gap between nuclear and non-nuclear weapons
4) Zionism (a few lengthy attacks were made against Israel by some of the Middle East delegates).

The nuclear power issue was raised time and again with most speakers opposing its use to generate energy. Sean MacBride and some British delegates lamblasted partial measures for not being able to eliminate one bomb and creating a smokescreen around any real effort towards disarmament. The Soviet and eastern European delegates spoke strongly in favor of partial measures.

The Third Stage of the Symposium was mass rallies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The purpose of the rallies was to make public the results of the Stages I & II and to call for action to oppose nuclear weapons and to call for aiding hibakushas (survivors of the atomic bombings).

The World Conference Against Nuclear weapons, held in Hiroshima immediately following the Symposium, was to have been the first united conference of Gensuikyo and Gensuikin since 1963. However, that was not quite achieved since alot of elements in Gensuikin opposed participation. So the organizing and participation came mainly from Gensuikyo. The World Conference was attended by 160 foreign delegates from 31 countries and 14 international organizations. The closing rally drew 10,000 people and was fraught with incidents of dissent, tug-a-wars with political banners, outbursts, and a few upset international delegates (over the apparent weakening of political statements against nuclear power). Despite all these problems, tne Conference was an improvement after all these years of separation.

One encouraging aspect of the conference was the continual mention of the Mobilization for Survival. Both the Japanese and

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Steve Sumerford standing with WRI-Japan people on the island of Ninoshima, August 4, a short distance from Hiroshima. The banner in front was on the Tokyo to Hiroshima branch of the walk and is signed by most of the long distance walkers. Standing next to Steve is Kou Mukai, holding up the WRI banner.

Robert Lowell and the Sacco-Vanzetti Case

by Jim Peck

Robert Lowell, the noted poet, died of a heart attack on Sept. 12 at the age of 60. I first met him in 1943 in Danbury prison, where he was a fellow-war resister. In the course of conversation, I expressed the view that "the greatest good you could do as a Lowell would be to tell the world that the Sacco-Vanzetti case was the dirtiest frameup in American history." He replied: "I believe they were guilty because my cousin (A. Lawrance Lowell, chairman of the special committee which reviewed the case) said they were guilty and I have complete confidence in his integrity."

After Danbury, I didn't see Robert until the Vietnam war, which he actively opposed. Soon after we met again, he wrote me: "Four or five years ago, I actually did spend a good deal of time reading up on the Sacco-Vanzetti trial, and became convinced that the murder must have been committed by the Morelli gang. It seemed that the bullets would have to have been forged by the police. At least, that's what I got out of the maze of conflicting testimony by ballistic experts. I thought at the time of writing something, but soon realized that only someone with legal training or a lawyer's mind could clearly summarize his way through the ocean of facts."

In 1967 I visited him to request that he speak at a meeting at Community Church marking the 40th anniversary of the execution. He agreed to do so. When his turn came to speak, he rose and with great modesty and brevity, repeated what he had said in his letter to me, namely, his conclusion that Sacco and Vanzetti were not guilty. He added, however, that he still had complete confidence in the integrity of his cousin, A Lawrance Lowell, but that the latter had been honestly mistaken in finding the two anarchists guilty.

As I left him after the meeting, he expressed gratitude for my having offered him an opportunity to express himself publicly on the case.

I recalled this a month ago, as I participated in a vigil on the library steps marking the 50th anniversary of the execution. Prior to the anniversary, Governor Dukakis of Massachusetts had issued a proclamation asserting that Sacco and Vanzetti had *not* had a fair trial.

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European delegates were very impressed with the existence of the Mobilization and have pledged full support for its timetable, with particular emphasis on activities occuring at the time of the UN Special Session on Disarmament in May and June 1978.

WRI Japan

An interesting contrast to the massive organizations of Gensuikin and Gensuikyo, and their power politics, is the Japan branch of WRI, pronounced "uri" by the Japanese.

There have been about 20 individual members of WRI in Japan for about 40 years. One of the first to become a member was the Most Venerable Fujii of the Nihonzan Myohoji. In 1952, two people from the Anarchist Federation came together to form the WRI branch. In 1954, the WRI group got involved with its first real action, demonstrating against nuclear weapons.

However, the WRI group dissolved in 1960 after the *violent* anarchists were asked to leave and a woman from the nonviolent part was killed by police in a demonstration against the Japanese "national guard." The WRI group was reformed with only 10 *active* members, a third of the original.

After 1963, the WRI program involved two main thrusts: opposition to the Japanese military (rearming through the "national guard") and helping deserters from the Vietnam war. In 1971, WRI blockaded the movement of trucks involved in the repair of U.S. tanks headed for Vietnam. This resulted in a three year trial for the organizers who were fined 1,000,000 yen ($4000).

In late 1975, the WRI group was rebuilt to include more non-anarchists and the WRI *Newsletter* began publication. Currently, there are about 100 active members and 400 supporting members in the WRI group.

The main office is in a working class, slum area of Osaka (Japan's second largest city with a population of 3.5 million). A collective of 5 people, not unlike many urban communes in the U.S., oversee the operation of WRI-Japan. One of the members of the collective, Kou Mukai, has been with the organization since the 1950's.

They prefer to operate on a small scale, decentralist manner. They are not so much interested in organization-building and mass actions as in focusing on individual cases of police repression. Last year they gained a minor bit of "fame" in their campaign against Emperorism.* WRI printed up colorful stickers denouncing Emperorism, which were stuck up publicly during the 50th anniversary celebration of Emperor Hirohito's ascension to the throne. This stopped after 20 police raided their offices, took the stickers, and printers refused to reprint them.

This year, the WRI group participated in the Tokyo to Hiroshima peace walk, but alot of skirmishes occurred because of the distribution of "unauthorized" literature and carrying of banners opposing nuclear power, among other things.

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* *Emperorism—the Emperor in Japan is a symbol of militarism and nationalism; recently, there has been resurgance of "Emperor worship" in Japan*

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were joined by many thousands from all over Japan for a walk across the city from the Peace Park to the Prefectural Gymnasium, where the first plenary session of the World Peace Conference was held. For the first time, I witnessed a large show of police force as we walked down the main streets.

On Hiroshima Day itself, early in the morning, at the exact time when the bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945, 50,000 people assembled for the annual memorial service. For the first time, the president of the UN General Assembly was among the speakers. The mayor inserted into the Cenotaph the names of 2,282 bomb victims who died this year. The office total now is 91,416.

In the evening, like every year, there took place the beautiful ceremony of hundreds of candles floated down the estuaries of the Ota River, which flow through Hiroshima.

To get the flavor of the Japanese Walk, I must conclude by mentioning the unique beauty of the countryside—the bright green rice fields, the tiled, gable-roofed houses, the sharply ridged wooded mountains, on whose slopes the light green of clumps of bamboo trees alternates with the dark green of the other trees. For me, the Japanese Walk was a beautiful 5-week insert into my life—completely separate and different.

Jim Peck is WRL NEWS *Editor.*

Transnational Nonviolence . . . continued from page 2

ments through nonviolent action, special nonviolent actions, nonviolent campaigns, training in nonviolence, and organization for nonviolent action. Contact: Peter Klotz-Chamberlain, Resource Center for Nonviolence, P.O. Box 2324 Santa Cruz, CA 94060.

A transnational "data bank" for *training* materials will be established. Trainer exchanges and development of transnational training teams are encouraged and will be facilitated. Everyone is encouraged to share the results of their work in training, preparation, and/or education for nonviolent action by preparing articles for publication, particularly in international journals and bulletins such as those of WRI, IFOR, Pax Christi, etc. Contact: Charlie Walker, Gandhi Institute, Box 92, Cheyney, PA 19319.

An information network for the sharing of resources and materials on *education and training* for nonviolence and on alternative education approaches will be established. It will be concerned with the educational of both children and adults. A committee will be established with the purpose of assisting the development of social action centers where education and preparation of nonviolent action would be offered. Contact: Connie Jump, 2818 Boyer Avenue East, Houseboat 3, Seattle, WA 98102.

For copies of the reports write to Dr. Beverly Woodward, 148 N St., So. Boston, MA 02127. Beverly, a member of the WRL NC, was the coordinator of ISTNA and deserves special mention for all the hard work she has done over the past two years in organizing this seminar.

Joanne Sheehan is on the WRL Steering Committee.

Japanese Peace Movement . . . continued from page 9

The four weeks I spent in Japan, two of them walking with Steve Sumerford, on one of the routes of the peace march, was one of the most moving experiences I have had. This report hardly does justice to a people—both in and out of the peace movement—who were incredibly polite and generous. I would urge those who can to consider visiting Japan next summer to participate in the peace walk. But it is more important to be involved in the series of actions planned by WRL and Mobilization for Survival in the next several months.

Ed Hedemann is on the WRL national office staff.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Elected to the Executive Committee for three years were Susan Cakars, Lynne Coffin, Bent Andresen, Robert Ellsberg, Murray Rosenblith, Diane Becker, Van Zwisohn, Edna Coleman; for one year Dwight Ernest. Elected to the National Committee for three years—West Region: Mandy Carter, Lynn Lockhart-Brown; Midwest Region: Robert Calvert, Lee Webster; South Region: Diane Hampton, Jerry Wingate; East Region: Jim Bristol, Larry Erickson, Mark Looney (one year).

Other members of the Executive Committee are: David Berkingoff, Maris Cakars, Ann Davidon, Wendy Schwartz, Joanne Sheehan, Allan Solomonow, Irma Zigas, Norma Becker, Sybil Claiborne, Jerry Coffin, William Douthard, Mike Jendrzejczyk, Prafulla Mukerji, Gail Pressberg, Joan Todd. Other members of the National Committee are: West Region—Claire Gorfinkel, Chris Jones, Betty Johanna, Natalie Shiras; Midwest Region: Angie O'Gorman, Brad Lyttle, Larry Gara, Vic Schumacher; South Region: William Wood Lilith, Bobby Slovak, Steve Sumerford; Scott Herrick; East Region: Randy Kehler, Paula Rayman, Beverly Woodward.

NOTE: See the September 22nd issue of WIN Magazine for an account by WRL delegate Natalie Shiras of her experiences in Japan.

NONVIOLENT STRUGGLE AROUND THE WORLD

That's the topic of the 1978 Peace Calendar, edited by Beverly Woodward. It contains photos and articles on outstaning and unusual nonviolent, direct action projects in many countries.

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Mobilization . . . continued from page 1

the public the creation of a new movement, linking four issues: Zero Nuclear Weapons, End the Arms Race, Stop Nuclear Power, Fund Human Needs. The next stage in the Mobilization will be from October 15 to November 15, as communities organize Speak-Outs and Teach-Ins in colleges, churches, and local communities. WRL has a list of speakers available for the Teach-Ins, including Natalie Shiras, Ed Hedemann, Jim Peck, Steve Sumerford, and Judy Hurley, who will report on their experiences in Japan where they took part in the peace walks and Hiroshima/Nagasaki observances. Other speakers include Igal Roodenko, William Douthard, David McReynolds and Joanne Sheehan. (As this goes to press a fuller list of speakers, that will include more women and blacks, and represent a better geographic balance, is being prepared. Write the National Office to see if there are speakers near you for use in Teach-ins.)

National Conference December 2-4

The first National Conference of the Mobilization for Survival will be held in Chicago, December 2, 3 and 4. It is open to all who share the four basic purposes of the Mobilization. For information on location of the conference, contact the WRL National Office—we hope to have a WRL Caucus during the conference.

The next steps after the Teach-ins and National Conference will include a strong emphasis in the early Spring on cutting military spending to fund human needs, and preparation for mass actions in New York and elsewhere during the UN's Special Session on Disarmament.

David McReynolds is on the WRL national office staff.

WRLers join biggest anti-TRIDENT DEMO

On August 14, last day of the WRL national conference in Lacey, Washington, a number of WRLers journeyed north to Bangor to participate in the biggest demonstration to date at the Trident nuclear submarine base.

More than 2000 persons assembled near the main entrance at 3 p.m. Security guards locked all gates, so that even Navy personnel couldn't enter or leave.

Then, several hundred of the participants, holding hands, walked across the road to the base entrance, which is on Navy property where demonstrators have been arrested on previous occasions. Base security guards, wearing riot helmets and armed with clubs, watched from inside the fence but did not attempt to make any arrests.

Sponsoring the demo was a coalition including Seattle and Vancouver Greenpeace, Live Without Trident, Crabshell Alliance, Seattle and Vancouver Pacific Life Communities, Bangor Summer Task Force, and WRL.

THE NEUTRON BOMB

If when you get this *WRL News*, President Carter has *not* yet issued his statement—slated for some time in the fall—on the neutron bomb, write him urging that he oppose it.

If he has approve it OR passed the buck to the Pentagon or the "technical experts," write him a protest letter.

If he has come out in opposition, write him a letter of commendation.

The neutron bomb is not merely another sophisticated innovation by the military. It characterizes the ultimate in cynicism by the warmakers. It is like something from George Orwell. The neutron bomb kills people *by radiation, but* preserve property *by giving-off a minimum of blast and heat. Such a gross atrocity can only be viewed as such in the eyes of the entire world.*

WRL SPEAKERS

WRL has speakers available to spend time in your community. Six League members participated in international conferences this summer. They want to share those experiences with you and discuss our direction in relationship to the international peace movement. All would have to have their expenses covered. Contact the National Office for scheduling (Speakers Bureau WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, or call 212-228-0450).

Jim Peck (New York), Steve Sumerford (North Carolina), Ed Hedemann (New York), Natalie Shiras (California), and Judy Hurley (Colorado) attended the Japanese peace march and the conferences against nuclear weapons in Hiroshima. Joanne Sheehan attended the International Seminar on Training for Nonviolent Action in Mexico.

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ORGANIZING NOTES

by Grace Hedemann

WRL WEST and HAWAII WRL continue their long term successful projects. WRL WEST's U.C. Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion project has publicized the Livermore and Los Alamos Labs relationship to the University of California at Berkeley. They demanded and got a public review of the University's continuing administration of the nuclear weapons research labs. Although the Labs will be continued to be administered by the University, the discussion is still continuing on a state-wide level for conversion to non-weapons work. HAWAII WRL and AFSC campaign against the presence of nuclear weapons in Hawaii has met partial victory. The Pentagon recently announced that the Waikele nuclear storage site will be closed. The WRL group has exposed the dangers of transporting weapons by truck and helicopter from Waikele to Pearl Harbor. Nuclear weapons will exist in Hawaii and new storage facilities are being built but public awareness has been increased about nuclear dangers.

Almost all the WRL locals/regionals are involved with the Mobilization for Survival. Many held demonstrations and vigils on August 6th to commemorate the bombs dropping on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to announce the kick off of the Mobilization campaign for the next year. A number of groups linked the nuclear weapons issue with the nuclear power plant issue. WRL WEST held a press conference releasing information on how the U.C. weapons labs convinced the military the neutron bomb was a good idea! The PEOPLE FOR DISARMAMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE in St. Louis held a die-in in the center of the city to dramatize the effects of a neutron bomb.

ST. LOUIS WRL continues with their prison work. PHILADELPHIA WRL links the issues of war tax resistance with nuclear disarmament. WESTCHESTER WRL as a result of their study group on civil disobedience, became involved with the SEABROOK occupation. ALBUQUERQUE WRL has encouraged and initiated new single issue community organizations. DETROIT and OAK PARK WRL have promoted speakers and films on various peace related issues. CHAPEL HILL WRL has been emphasizing their program on women and nonviolence, and protesting the death penalty. SOUTHEAST WRL, a new and vital office, has recently completed a tour through the South informing WRL members and friends of their existence and promoting WRL locals.

WRL locals/regional offices are listed below. We encourage you to contact them and get involved. If one does not exist in your area consider starting a group. WRL will be glad to send you information on organizing. WRL is only as strong as its members are active.

Grace Hedemann is on the WRL national office staff.

Need Help for 1979 Calendar

The theme for the 1979 WRL calendar will be "Prisons." Most of the entries will be brief, many of them quotations by prisoners or former prisoners on various aspects of prison life. Other entries will describe nonviolent prison actions, well known political prisoners, and movements for change such as the campaign against the death penalty. Suggestions and material, including good visuals, will be much appreciated. Write:Larry Gara, 21 Faculty Place, Wilmington, Ohio 45177.

WRL LOCALS/REGIONALS OFFICES

REGIONAL OFFICES

WRL SOUTHEAST, 108-B Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919)967-7244

WRL/WEST, 1360 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 626-6976

LOCAL OFFICES

ALBUQUERQUE WRL, 5021 Guadalupe Tr., Albuquerque, NM 87107 (505) 344-1140

ATLANTA WRL, PO Box 7477, Atlanta, GA 30309 (no phone)

AUSTIN WRL, PO Box 7161, Austin, TX 78712 (no phone)

CHAPEL HILL WRL, 108-B, Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919) 967-7244

COLUMBIA WRL, 813 Maryland Ave., Columbia, MO 65201 (314) 442-1813

DETROIT WRL, 692 West Forest #6, Detroit, MI 48201 (313) 833-3197

DIRECT ACTION COMMITTEE WRL, 2042 E. Virginia, Evansville, IN 47711 (no phone)

HAWAII WRL/cATHOLIC ACTION, 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 949-1210

LOS ANGELES WRL, 350 So. Figuero St., Los Angeles, CA 90071 (no phone)

MILWAUKEE WRL, 4711 Lisbon Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 445-9736

OAK PARK WRL, 712 No. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302 (312) 383-3082

PHILADELPHIA WRL/WTR, 2016 Walnut, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 568-7971

ST. LOUIS WRL, 4556 A Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110 (314) 533-2234

SEATTLE WRL, 331 17 Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112 (206) 322-1766

TWIN CITIES WRL, 2005 Vincent Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55411 (612) 529-3184

WESTCHESTER WRL, 100 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 949-0088; 949-9577